

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bracket for supporting a shelf from a vertically extending surface comprising:

an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a vertically extending surface allowing the angled member to be supported from the surface and a second elongate portion ~~engageable~~ adapted to be engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle with respect to the second elongate portion, enlarged portions integrally formed as one piece with the angled member adjacent each outer end of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member; and

an elongate interchangeable cross brace engageable with the enlarged portions and extending between the first and second elongate portions.

2. (Original) The bracket of claim 1 further comprising:

each of the first and second elongate portions having an aperture formed therein for releasibly receiving the interchangeable cross brace.

3. (Currently Amended) A bracket for supporting a shelf from a vertically extending surface comprising:

an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a vertically extending surface allowing the angled member to be supported from the surface and a second elongate portion ~~engageable~~ adapted to be engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle with respect to the second elongate portion;

an elongate interchangeable cross brace extending between the first and second elongate portions, the elongate interchangeable cross brace having first and second longitudinal ends and a receptacle located between the first and second longitudinal ends; and

self-interlocking complementary surfaces formed on each longitudinal end of the cross brace and each corresponding releasible attachment location of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member.

4. (Original) The bracket of claim 3 further comprising:
the receptacle defining a picture frame.
5. (Original) The bracket of claim 3 further comprising:
the receptacle defining a hollow box of sufficient size to enclose at
least one item relating to a special occasion.
6. (Original) The bracket of claim 3 further comprising:
the receptacle defining a hollow container of sufficient size to enclose
at least one item relating to sports paraphernalia.
7. (Original) The bracket of claim 1 further comprising:
the elongate interchangeable cross brace including ornamental indicia
formed thereon relating to one of a holiday, a special occasions, a collegiate logo,
and a professional team logo.
8. (Original) The bracket of claim 1 further comprising:
the elongate interchangeable cross brace defining a hook for
supportingly hanging another article.
9. (Currently Amended) A bracket for supporting a shelf from a
vertically extending surface comprising:
an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be
engaged with a vertically extending surface allowing the angled member to be
supported from the surface and a second elongate portion ~~engageable~~ adapted to be
engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle
with respect to the second elongate portion, enlarged portions formed adjacent each
outer end of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member; and
an elongate interchangeable cross brace engageable with the enlarged
portions and extending between the first and second elongate portions, the elongate
interchangeable cross brace having an ornamental appearance depicting one of a
pumpkin, a football helmet, a soccer ball, a basketball, a baseball, a picture frame, a
teddy bear, baby shoes, a container, and a fishing lure.

10. (Currently Amended) A bracket for supporting a shelf from a vertically extending surface comprising:

an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a vertically extending surface to be supported therefrom and a second elongate portion ~~engageable~~ adapted to be engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle with respect to the second elongate portion, each of the first and second elongate portions having an enlarged portion adjacent an outer end with opposing apertures formed therein; and

~~an a plurality of~~ elongate interchangeable cross brace extending
braces of different contoured surface ornamental appearances for interchangeably
being engaged with respect to the angled member, each cross brace adapted to
interchangeably extend between the first and second elongate portions ~~and~~
~~engageable~~ when engaged within the opposing apertures formed in the enlarged portions of the angled member for releasibly receiving the interchangeable cross brace.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The A bracket of claim 10 further comprising:~~ for supporting a shelf from a vertically extending surface comprising:

an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a vertically extending surface to be supported therefrom and a second elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle with respect to the second elongate portion, each of the first and second elongate portions having an enlarged portion adjacent an outer end with opposing apertures formed therein; and

an elongate interchangeable cross brace extending between the first and second elongate portions and engageable within the opposing apertures formed in the enlarged portions of the angled member for releasibly receiving the interchangeable cross brace, the elongate interchangeable cross brace having first and second longitudinal ends and a receptacle located between the first and second longitudinal ends.

12. (Original) The bracket of claim 11 further comprising:

the receptacle defining a picture frame.

13. (Original) The bracket of claim 11 further comprising:
the receptacle defining a hollow box of sufficient size to enclose at least one item relating to a special occasion.

14. (Original) The bracket of claim 11 further comprising:
the receptacle defining a hollow container of sufficient size to enclose at least one item relating to sports paraphernalia.

15. (Original) The bracket of claim 10 further comprising:
the elongate interchangeable cross brace including ornamental indicia formed thereon relating to one of a holiday, a special occasions, a collegiate logo, and a professional team logo.

16. (Original) The bracket of claim 10 further comprising:
the elongate interchangeable cross brace defining a hook for supportingly hanging another article.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The A bracket of claim 10 further comprising:~~ for supporting a shelf from a vertically extending surface comprising:
an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a vertically extending surface to be supported therefrom and a second elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle with respect to the second elongate portion, each of the first and second elongate portions having an enlarged portion adjacent an outer end with opposing apertures formed therein; and
an elongate interchangeable cross brace extending between the first and second elongate portions and engageable within the opposing apertures formed in the enlarged portions of the angled member for releasibly receiving the interchangeable cross brace, the elongate interchangeable cross brace having an ornamental appearance depicting one of a pumpkin, a football helmet, a soccer ball, a basketball, a baseball, a picture frame, a teddy bear, baby shoes, a container, and a fishing lure.

18. (Currently Amended) A bracket for supporting a shelf from a vertically extending surface comprising:

an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a vertically extending surface to be supported therefrom and a second elongate portion ~~engageable~~ adapted to be engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle with respect to the second elongate portion, each of the first and second elongate portions having an enlarged portion adjacent an outer end with opposing apertures formed therein; and

~~an a plurality of~~ elongate interchangeable cross ~~brace extending~~ braces of different contoured surface ornamental appearances for interchangeably being engaged with respect to the angled member, each cross brace adapted to interchangeably extend between the first and second elongate portions ~~and engageable when engaged~~ within the opposing apertures formed in the enlarged portions of the angled member for releasibly receiving the interchangeable cross brace, the elongate interchangeable cross brace having an ornamental appearance including one of a hook, a picture frame, a hollow container, a pumpkin, a football helmet, a soccer ball, a basketball, a baseball, a teddy bear, a baby shoe, a container, a fishing lure, a holiday indicia, a special occasion indicia, a collegiate logo indicia, and a professional team logo indicia.

19. (Currently Amended) A bracket for supporting a shelf from a vertically extending surface comprising:

an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a vertically extending surface allowing the angled member to be supported from the surface and a second elongate portion ~~engageable~~ adapted to be engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle with respect to the second elongate portion;

an elongate interchangeable cross brace extending between the first and second elongate portions; and

self-interlocking complementary surfaces formed on each longitudinal end of the cross brace and each corresponding releasible attachment location of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member.

20. (Previously Presented) The bracket of claim 19 further comprising:

an enlarged portion adjacent each outer end of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member corresponding to the attachment locations for the cross brace.

21. (New) A bracket for supporting a shelf from a vertically extending surface comprising:

an angled member having a first elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a vertically extending surface allowing the angled member to be supported from the surface and a second elongate portion adapted to be engaged with a shelf to be supported, the first elongate portion extending at an angle with respect to the second elongate portion, enlarged portions integrally formed as one piece with the angled member adjacent each outer end of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member; and

at least one elongate cross brace adapted to be engaged with and extend between the enlarged portions of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member.